

REMARKS

Claim 52 has been amended to state that the status information includes traffic-blocking information. Basis for this amendment can be found on page 13, first paragraph.

The combination of features recited in claim 52 allows the telephone exchanges to operate effectively with the IP routers, since congestion can be controlled so that the telecommunication system knows whether the adapters have free capacity for the circuit/connection about to be established. This is particularly important when a conventional telephone network is partially upgraded to incorporate internet protocol based nodes in particular, since there is no call set up mechanism in the IP network. Conventionally, an adapter sending traffic over an IP network has to assume that the transmission capability it needs is available (as discussed on page 7). The adapters of the present invention exchange information on whether there is free capacity for the next call. The telecommunications system of amended claim 52 therefore retains the functionality of a conventional telephone network while improving its structure and operational efficiency.

The combination of features now recited in claim 52 is not shown or suggested in the prior art or any combination thereof. In particular, U.S. Patent No. 6,243,374 to White does not disclose an adapter as required by claim 52, nor does it disclose the exchange of status information in packetized form.

The Examiner's objection that such features are inherent in the system of White, since otherwise the system would not be able to operate, is noted. However, it must be appreciated that White relates to a specific field of services provided by a telecommunication system; namely custom calling services on PSTNs and to the use of voicemail with Internet implementation. It does not relate to the upgrading of conventional telephone networks with IP based routers and thus does not encounter the problems and implementation requirements overcome by the system of amended claim 52.

In certain circumstances, it would be reasonable for the Examiner to assume that a level of status exchange in the network disclosed in White is inherently present. However, in this case applicant urges the Examiner to reconsider due to the differing fields of the system of White to that of the present invention and due to the content of the status information exchanged that has now been specified in amended claim 52.

Amended claim 52 requires the status information to include "traffic-blocking" information to facilitate the integration of IP routers into a conventional telephone network that handles many real-time voice and data calls, as discussed above. White discloses a general Internet based network to illustrate the communication between voice messaging systems, the operation of which is described in col. 20, lines 22- 46. It is clear from this that the exchange of congestion or traffic-blocking information as now defined in claim 52 is not needed in this network as it simply requires the transfer of a pre-recorded message from one voicemail system (VMS) to another VMS. Applicant therefore submits that amended claim 52 is distinguished from the prior art and therefore it is, as well as the claims that depend therefrom, new and inventive.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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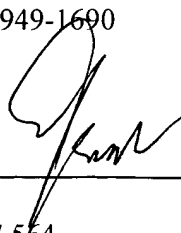
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